

Thales signs specialist aviation framework with The Manchester Airports Group plc

Thales UK today announces the signing of a framework agreement with The Manchester Airports Group plc for the provision of specialist aviation related services and products to all airports in The Manchester Airport Group of Companies, which includes Manchester Airport, Nottingham East Midlands Airport, Bournemouth Airport and Humberside Airport for a period of three years, with an option to extend by a further two years.

Manchester Airport is part of The Manchester Airports Group Plc (MAG), which is the second largest airport operator in the UK and has a turnover in excess of £385m a year.

Manchester Airport is the UK's third largest airport and currently handles 22 million passengers a year, offering direct flights to over 210 destinations worldwide by over 100 airlines with 300 tour operators.

Steve Hill, Vice President and Managing Director of Thales UK's air systems business, says: "This contract reinforces our position in the Regional Airports and UK civil ATM market, enabling us to build on the good working relationships developed in the past with Manchester Airport."

Simon Butterworth, Head of Airfield Strategy for MAG, says: "We are very pleased to be working with Thales UK on our future requirements for airfield equipment. As one of the industry leaders, we look forward to Thales delivering efficient solutions for the needs of our Group Airports."

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About Thales and Thales UK

Thales is a leading international electronics and systems group, addressing defence, aerospace and security markets worldwide. Thales's leading-edge technology is supported by 22,000 R&D engineers who offer a capability unmatched in Europe to develop and deploy field-proven mission-critical information systems. To this end, the group's civil and military businesses develop in parallel and share a common base of technologies to serve a single objective: the security of people, property and nations. The group builds its growth on its unique multi-domestic strategy based on trusted partnerships with national customers and market players, while leveraging its global expertise to support local technology and industrial development. Thales employs 68,000 people in 50 countries with 2007 revenues of £8.3 bn.

Thales UK employs 9,000 staff based at more than 50 locations. In 2007 Thales UK's revenues were over £1.2 bn.

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